(b) if so, the reasons why the students of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes are facing difficulties to get the amount of fellowship provided to them during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have added some new condition for getting fellowship resulting in difficulty to the students of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in getting fellowship;

(d) if so, the details of newly imposed conditions; and

(e) the steps Government are taking to remove the said difficulties so that the scheme may achieve its objective?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The central sector scheme of "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)" has been introduced since 2005-06 for providing financial assistance to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students for pursuing research studies leading to M. phil. and Ph.D. by this Ministry and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is being implemented through University Grant Commission (UGC).

(b) No such complaint has been received in this Ministry.

(c) The Ministry has not added any new condition in the scheme after introduction of scheme.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of power exchanges

*189. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the details of proposed power exchange in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the functioning of such exchange;

(c) whether the country have sufficient transmission network to facilitate transfer of power;

(d) whether it will be incumbent upon all the power producers to trade through the exchange;

(e) whether Government expects multiplicity of such exchanges, if so, whether the multiplicity of exchanges benefit the power sector;

(f) whether Government have also set up the regulatory mechanism to ascertain the selection of promoters of power exchanges, and

(g) whether State distribution agencies will also be required to purchase power from these exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) In accordance with the provisions of Section 66 of the Electricity Act, 2003 and Para 5.7.1 (d) of the National Electricity Policy the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) issued a staff consultation paper on Developing a Common Platform for Electricity Trading inviting comments from the stakeholders. Subsequently, the CERC held a public hearing on the issue on 19th December, 2006 at New Delhi.

After taking into account the comments received on the consultation paper and the deliberations held in the hearing on 19th December, 2006, the CERC issued Order dated 6.2.2007 stipulating the Guidelines for setting up of such Exchanges. The Guidelines lay down the procedure for making applications to CERC for establishing and operating such Exchanges, and related issues.

(c) Presently, the country has strong and integrated regional power grids. To facilitate transfer of power from surplus to deficit regions, an inter-regional transmission capacity of 11450 MW is existing. Further, inter-regional transmission system is being augmented during 11th Plan and it is envisaged to be over 37,000 MW by the end of 11th Plan.

(d) Power Exchange is aimed at providing one more option for trading, to the various entities, including power producers.

(e) The CERC feels that the policy frame work should make room for establishment for more than one power exchange at the National level and also to have the provision for second-tier Power Exchange at State/regional level commensurate with the market development. Any initiative on part of the prospective promoters of power exchange at the national level, which has the potential of bringing about larger benefits of the electricity sector, is welcome.

(f) The Guidelines for establishment and operation of the Power Exchange issued by the Commission on 6.2.2007 provide for structural frame work

including eligibility criteria, the required documentation and the procedure for interested parties to approach the Commission for seeking permission to set up and operate power exchange.

(g) It will not be mandatory for any person, including the State distribution agencies, to purchase power from these power exchanges.

Action plan on infrastructure of IITs

*190. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the action plans of Government to increase infrastructure, especially in IITs in view of Government's keenness in extending quota to OBCs;

(b) whether it is a fact that the student teacher ratio in all IITs is less than 1:12 against the ideal ratio set by Government as 1:9 and 1:6 in foreign countries; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the action taken to recruit and attract more teachers to meet the minimum required strength?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) As per the Central Educational Institutions (Reservation in Admission) Act, 2006, Indian Institutes of Technology have to provide 27% reservation in admission to students belonging to the other backward classes, in addition to the already existing reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students, over a maximum period of three years beginning with the academic session 2007-08. While doing so the Institutes will have to ensure that the total number of seats available to the General Category students is maintained at the level of such seats available during the academic session 2006-07. The Institutes will, therefore, have to increase their intake capacity. Government is committed to provide adequate funds to increase infrastructure on account of increase in the intake capacity of students. Rs. 988 crores have been proposed in the budget estimates 2007-08 for capacity expansion of IITs.

(b) Standing Committee of IIT Council (SCIC) has laid down the faculty student ratio in IITs as 1:9. At present the faculty student ratio in some of the IIT's is less than 1:12.